

## From the moderator

As I write this, we are at the tail end of storm Ellen, and I am watching the trees in London Road swaying in the wind.

Since the Met office started to give names to storms it somehow has made them more personal, I imagine Ellen as a bright and breezy young woman bringing down the apples from the trees and preparing the gardens for autumn. Storm Kyle it seems is chasing her across the country.

Naturally The wind itself is invisible, but I know for certain that Ellen is at work from the way she affects everything, trees, flowers, leaves birds, even scraps of litter on the pavement.

Watching the wind in the trees and thinking of the names of the storms, reminds me of the story of Jesus meeting Nicodemus in that garden at night. Jesus explains with a simple picture, that though it is impossible to see the invisible God, it is perfectly possible to see how He affects everything in the world.

Nicodemus has already introduced himself by acknowledging that Jesus was sent by God, as a teacher. He also recognised that though Jesus did not perhaps have the conventional qualifications, he had been given a far higher authority, endorsed by the many miraculous signs that God had worked through him. He was able to see this because he was himself one of Israel's recognised and qualified teachers well versed in the acts of God in the Old Testament.

It was that admission that led Jesus to use the illustration of the wind. Nicodemus has seen the effects of Jesus ministry, and recognised that somehow the God who had revealed himself in the history of His people, was speaking and teaching through Jesus now. In the same way as I see the trees move, and having watched the weather forecasts, I realise that this must be storm Ellen at work in Raunds, as it has been at work in Ireland, and Wales beforehand.

As I watch the trees sway I ask myself should I close my computer screen, venture out into the fresh air and experience the effect of the wind. I think I will, before it's too late, and Ellen and Kyle have passed by.

Jesus offers Nicodemus and every one of us the open door, into the kingdom of God where the wind of the Spirit blows life, joy and peace into all who are willing to cross that threshold. Now is the opportunity, for who knows when the wind will move on.

He says in what is perhaps the most famous of all His teaching recorded by John for us.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”**

Every Blessing  
Yours in Christ

*David*